

For the Christian Messenger.

DEAR BROTHER,—

I think a remark something like this appeared in your columns a short time ago from J. W. Barss Esq. "It would be much better oftentimes for persons to apply for information in proper quarters than for them to rush madly into print."

I would like most respectfully to ask at whose request? by whose authority? and for what purpose, Brother Munro styles the mention of Dr. Pryor's name in the Catalogue a *flagrant* misstatement? Surely such an epithet as "flagrant" should not be applied to the doings of any man or body of men, without the most careful enquiry. Does our brother expect to advance the interests of the College by such attacks, or does he feel pleased to think that a letter such as his, published at this time, may materially injure the efforts of our agent in the prosecution of his work? It does seem like the latter.

When brethren who have given their hundreds to the College, or who have strenuously advocated its claims feel aggrieved, they have a right to complain, but it is not generally from these the tones of dissatisfaction are heard.

If Bro. M. had required or even had attentively read your paper, he must have known that so far from the appointment of Dr. Pryor being conditional, it was entirely the reverse, and that no language could be used to express in more precise terms an unconditional appointment, than the unanimous vote of the Governors recorded on the book at the time. In pursuance of that vote the invitation was officially forwarded to him. He is just as much a Professor in Acadia College as Mr. Howe, who for the last few months has been in England, was Secretary of the Province of Nova Scotia during his absence, only that Mr. H. draws his salary and Dr. P. does not.

We trust Bro. M. will manifest a different spirit and that the next article from his able pen will be in advocacy of the claims of our Institutions. We love to see those who come among us from other lands. We need them, but we are grieved when we see them attacking rather than helping us in our noble enterprises.

Yours very truly,

STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS,
Sec'y of the Gov's. of Acadia College.
Wolfville, Jan. 30th, 1862.

For the Christian Messenger.

MR. EDITOR,—

Most persons who read Dr. Cramp's reply to my note in the *Christian Messenger* of last week, if they knew nothing more of the subject than is there communicated, would infer that I had been in error and now stood corrected. I had stated that the insertion of Dr. Pryor's name in the Catalogue of Acadia College, conveyed a wrong impression as it implied that that gentleman was actually engaged for the institution if not in it, while the fact was that the engagement with him if such existed could only be conditional. But in reply we are told that, "The Associated Alumni made a proposition to the Governors of the College,—that the Governors accepted the proposition and agreed to extend a cordial invitation to Dr. Pryor, that as it was originally understood Dr. Pryor was to enter upon his duties upon the first day of September next—that information was received from Dr. Pryor to the effect that he would be here in April and would be prepared to commence work immediately on his arrival, and therefore it was thought proper to insert his name in the list of Professors." Now in all this it is not said I was wrong, but it looks very much like a gentle way of putting me right. I thank Dr. Cramp for his urbanity, but I am sorry it should have prevented him from saying that my statement of the case was incorrect and my view of it erroneous, if he thought so.

2. But was I mistaken? If so I am in good company, that is some consolation. Will you, Mr. Editor, allow me to refer to the *Christian Messenger* of Sept. 4, 1861, in which your readers were favored with your own careful and unquestionably accurate report of the proceedings of the Convention held at Nictaux. From that report permit me to make a short extract, italicising the words to which I wish to call special attention. "The President of the Associated Alumni, J. W. Johnston Esq., informed the Convention, that that body had passed a resolution to devote their funds towards sustaining a Professor's Chair in Acadia College and that if the necessary amount were raised for that purpose, they proposed inviting the Rev. Dr. Pryor to accept their nomination to the Board of Governors." Allow me also to refer you to the C. M. of October 2, 1861, in which there is a communication from your intelligent correspon-

dent Alumnus, who says "I believe the invitation to Dr. Pryor is entirely dependent on the circumstance of the Associated Alumni being able to raise sufficient to meet his salary."

For myself I can say that I consented to the action of the Alumni only with the distinct understanding that the additional amount should be raised without drawing from the present resources of the College. These statements, published in our denominational organ, and the most important emanating from its editor, necessarily known to all the parties concerned and remaining uncontradicted for four or five months, are my authority for the conclusion at which I arrived, that any engagement with Dr. Pryor as a Professor of Acadia College could only be conditional, for they clearly assert that such an enjoyment must imply not only one but two conditions. 1. That the Associated Alumni raise a certain amount. 2. That the resources of the College should not in any way contribute to it. "The original understanding" we are now told, was that Dr. Pryor was to enter upon his duties next September, but "the original understanding" communicated to us in the first of the above extracts, and confirmed by the second, was that the Associated Alumni were to endeavor to raise the necessary funds, and having succeeded, then and not till then could an enjoyment be made with Dr. Pryor. Is Dr. Pryor one of the Professors of Acadia College, or is he not? The above quotations would lead one to suppose the answer must be in the negative. The Catalogue and Dr. Cramp's letter would lead one to suppose the answer must be in the affirmative. If like the pertinacious applicant at the Circumlocution office, "I want to know," let it be remembered that I am seeking information that ought to have been given frankly and unsolicited. And that is connected with a subject about which there need not be and should not be any mystery.

4. Last March Acadia College was in a most perilous position. A circular addressed to every Baptist Church in the two Provinces, informed them that unless £350 were raised in addition to the ordinary revenue of the College, that institution must be closed. The appeal was so nobly responded to by our churches in this Province, that a sum was raised, sufficient to temporarily relieve the College of its pecuniary difficulties. It is pretty well understood, that without any additional expenses, the College will shortly require another similar effort in its behalf. If, then, Dr. Pryor is actually engaged, as a Professor in Acadia College may I ask,—as one of those Pastors to whom these circulars are sent, and who replied to the last one by remitting to Acadia College the first contribution it ever received from his church,—what provision has been made for the salary of the newly-appointed Professor?

5. The Associated Alumni constitute a Society whose only source of revenue is the annual subscription of \$4 from each member. The amount they were able to contribute last year to the funds of the College, was but a small part of the sum necessary for a Professor's salary. It is impossible for any one to know till next June what funds the Alumni will have at their disposal this year, but from the fact that many of them joined the Society with the avowed object of providing a salary for a Professor of Modern languages in Acadia College, and are not willing to have their subscriptions diverted to any other object, there is reason to fear that the Associated Alumni will be able to do but little towards raising the \$800 required.

6. As it was a distinct understanding on the part of the Alumni, that "the additional amount should be raised without drawing from the present resources of the College, the \$200 voted by the Governors must be paid out of their own private resources, or else the proposition of the Alumni is no longer binding and must be left entirely out of consideration.

7. I wish it to be understood that I am not holding a controversy with Dr. Cramp; nor discussing the desirableness of Dr. Pryor's being one of the Professors of Acadia College. I trust that nothing I have written is inconsistent with the highest respect for both these gentlemen. If the College were private property, or even if it could exist independently of denominational sympathy and support, I should make no enquiry, express no opinion; but such not being the case, I have only exercised a privilege that is the right of the humblest of our body.

I am yours respectfully,
A. H. MUNRO.

[Our friend Mr. Munro, in the above, mentions two sources from which he derived his information, and evidently desires that his "good company" should share with him the consequences of whatever mistake he may have made. To this we simply reply:—

1. That part of our "careful and unquestionably accurate report of the proceedings at the

Convention at Nictaux," to which Mr. M. refers, was merely a few lines noticing remarks made, on that occasion, by the President of the Associated Alumni, but neither that speech nor the report of it were official.

2. If Mr. Munro chooses to rest on what he quotes from our correspondent "Alumnus" commencing "I believe" of course, he may do so, but we think the phraseology hardly sufficient foundation to rest a serious charge upon, even if it were not anonymous.

3. But there are two other sources, subsequently published, from which Mr. Munro might have obtained official information—the Circular of the President of the Associated Alumni, referring to this matter, published separately, and in our issue of Dec. 25, 1861; and the Minutes of Convention pages 20, 21. These, we think, would have been better ground for Mr. M. to have taken. The Resolutions of the Alumni and of the Governors of the College, relating to this subject, are contained in both those documents; as they have already appeared two or three times in our columns, we think it unnecessary to copy them again.

We have a letter from the President of the Associated Alumni referring to this matter, but we put it aside to allow space for the above.—
E. D. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College Agency.

DEAR EDITOR,—

It is rather a rough and somewhat boisterous morning in this locality, and I avail myself of an indoor hour to report myself and doings.

I am aware that my reports have at times given offence in certain quarters; and again others have been displeased that I did not report oftener. But I need not tell an Editor how hard it is to please everybody. One worthy friend, I am informed, was displeased with me, because I gave publicity to his generous donation, (or rather investment) a few years since; his purpose being, no doubt, not to let his left hand know what his right hand did. I heartily approve of the spirit of that principle, and can assure that friend and every other that a similar deposit shall, if they should so desire, be kept secret from the newspapers and all else, but the Treasurer of Acadia College.

In the present case as there has been no restrictions laid upon me, I will mention a few items of success. I have been soliciting about seven days, and have obtained a little over \$900.00 for the Endowment, and pledges to the Treasurer for about \$1200 more. The notes received are from Daniel Huntley, of Pereaux, £100; Deacon Simon Fitch's lady, £100; and Brother Shaffner, of Canning, £25. A couple of smaller sums in cash to pay the way expenses, is the amount of my past week's toil. I sincerely desire, Mr. Editor, not only yours, but the prayers of the denomination, that I may have wisdom and strength given me to assist in accomplishing this most desirable object of setting our institution above want. So much for the present.

Yours very truly,

A. D. THOMSON.

Cornwallis, Jan. 27, 1862.

North and South.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

SIR,—It is of importance that we Nova Scotians should read aright the lessons being taught us by our neighbors; and if many of our people are liable to the delusions that beguile your correspondent A. C., it is well they should receive better instruction. I had thought to throw off some remarks, but other engagements have interfered; and if you will insert the extracts from *The Times* I enclose, your readers will have in far more vigorous language than I could use, some of the points discussed, to which I had desired to allude.

It is no matter of wonder that your correspondent should be the victim of bewildering hallucinations, when the transparent hypocrisy of the pretext that the Northern States are fighting to emancipate the slaves, can deceive him,—when he can mistake for patriotism the wounded pride, disappointed ambition, and malignant hatred that are urging the States on in the barbarous and ruinous war they are waging,—when he can find in Mr. Everett's speech five or six cases adjudicated in the British Admiralty Court, on which Capt. Wilkes' heroic exploit may be justified. For myself I confess to the weakness of being unable to behold, without sympathy, a brave people struggling for independence against fearful odds. As on the other hand I find little in the conduct of their opponents that

does not justly earn for them derision and reprobation.

Yours,

TICKLER.

A FRENCH VIEW OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

"Among the many good gifts of Democracy a knowledge of itself does not seem to be included. If the Civil War does nothing else for the reading part of the people of North America, it will at any rate, teach them what they are, and what is the true meaning of the phenomena which surround them. They can learn little or nothing from their home orators and their home writers. Of a mob, as truly as of a monarch, it may be said that the same fortune which made them Kings forbear them to have a friend. They are approached with boundless adulation and prostrate servility. A thousand venal pens are ever ready to transform their vices into virtues, to falsify the most obvious facts, and to persuade the multitudinous Sovereign that his crimes are proof of matchless virtue, and his errors of more than human wisdom. But America, so to speak has in these latter days gone beyond herself.—She has become the property, not merely of penny-a-liners and stump orators, but of the whole human race. The events which are occurring on her soil, though neither glorious to her sword nor to her pen, are yet of sufficient consequence to attract to her the attention of the keenest observers and the most pungent writers of the day. Her institutions are explained, her politics are analyzed, her prospects delineated, and her finance dissected by hands incomparably more able than have been for many years employed upon them. A faithful mirror is held up to the misguided Confederacy in which she may see her face, not as her flatterers have represented it to her, serene in Majesty and terrible in calm resolution, but distorted with passion, envy, and hatred, and a burning but ungratified thirst for revenge.

"Of all such writings on American subjects we have seen none more clear, more just, and more conclusive than the short pamphlet of M. Sidney Renouf entitled *Europe and the American Union*." With that inimitable power of statement and clearness of deduction which are the acknowledged characteristics of the higher minds of his country, M. Renouf strips off one by one all the glosses and disguises under which the real state of America has hitherto been concealed. Slavery is not, he says, the cause of the rupture. The Government of the Union had done nothing to promote the abolition of Slavery. The object is to re-establish the Union, and the North will not complicate the question by a Quixotic effort in favour of the emancipation of the despised and hated Negro race. The triumph of the North would be the triumph of Slavery.

In fact, as friends of human freedom, we shudder at the concessions which the North might be induced to make at the expense of the slave for the purpose of winning back its lost Confederates. If Abolition be ever taken up by the North, it will not be for its own sake, but as the last and the deadliest weapon with which to strike down its antagonists, by the desolation of their hearths and the sacrifice of women and children to the lusts and cruelty of infuriated barbarians. Well may M. Renouf conclude that Slavery is not the cause, nor emancipation in any degree the object, of the American Civil War, and that to such a ground of sympathy the North is no way entitled. Nor has the North any claim on the sympathy of the mass of educated men who sincerely wish well to liberty, nor of the smaller number who view that liberty as residing in Democracy. The South does not fight for absolutism, but against an union which she has learnt to detest. The North does not fight for liberty, but rather to deprive the South of that dearest of all liberties—the right to choose its own Government. If the Secession be completed, there will not be in America more slavery or less freedom. We shall have two Republics instead of one, and their rivalry may at least break through the fetters of that mediocrity which chains everything in America down to the same dead level, and leaves her in her utmost need without a statesman, an orator, or a General.

"Having thus disentangled the question from certain considerations which tend to obscure its true significance, M. Renouf proceeds to inquire what is the true policy of England and France with regard to America. The question, he remarks, is not one of principle, but of fact.—America has been ever since its independence, eighty years ago, a Power continually increasing in magnitude. Its means of increase has been absorption and annexation. At the rate at which it was proceeding the Union would shortly have reached the Isthmus of Darien, and proceeded to absorb the Spanish Republics of South America. It is for this extension of power, no doubt, that the North is contending, and should they succeed in subduing the South, they would probably revert to such a line of policy. M. Renouf might have added that they would by subduing the South mark the commencement of a policy of conquest, and that this new policy, once fairly inaugurated, would very probably find nothing on the American Continent able to resist it.

The government of a peaceful Federation would be succeeded by a reign of military violence, and the equilibrium of Europe might be threatened by an armed democracy, powerful by sea and land, and having effectually moulded its ploughshare into a sword to grace the arbitrary hand of some successful soldier. Besides, M. Renouf considers that France has a very heavy material interest in putting an end as soon as possible to the present struggle. Her trade, as an exporter of articles of taste and luxury, and as an importer of cotton, has suffered very materially by the Civil War, and bankruptcy threatens many of her principal houses. England and France have common interests, and ought not to separate. If the North refuses